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## **Consumer Price Index, Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington — March 2019**

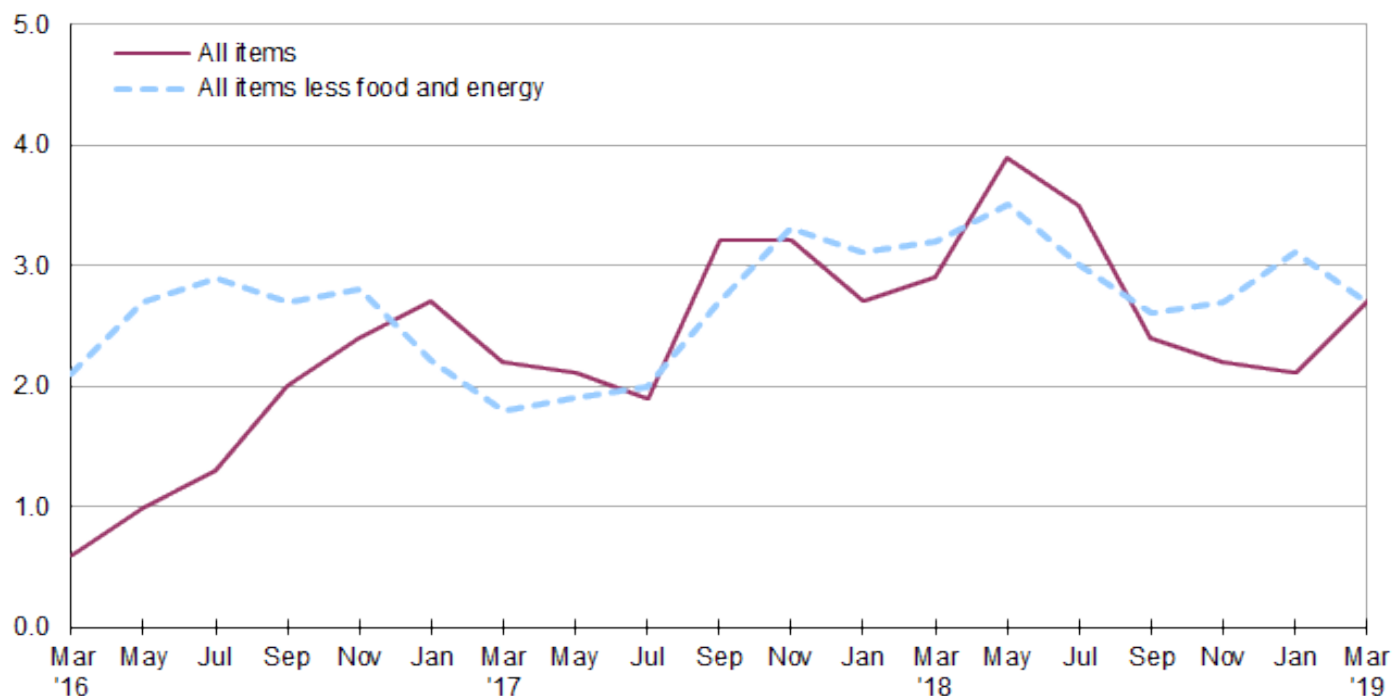
### **Area prices rise 1.1 percent in February and March; up 2.7 percent over the year**

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington rose 1.1 percent in February and March, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Stanley W. Suchman noted that an 11.0-percent climb in energy costs was the biggest factor in the two-month rise, accounting for nearly 70 percent of the total increase. A 0.3-percent rise in the index for all items less food and energy and a 1.1-percent increase in food costs also contributed to the February and March gain. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, short-term changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

During the year ended in March 2019, the all items CPI-U rose 2.7 percent, as did the index for all items less food and energy. This is the fastest annual rate of increase in the all items index since July 2018, when total prices rose at a 3.5-percent pace. (See [chart 1](#) and [table 1](#).)

**Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Dallas, TX, March 2016–March 2019**

Percent change



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## **Food**

Food prices rose 1.1 percent in February and March, after increasing 0.5 percent in December and January. Both sub-components contributed to the current bimonthly increase, but food at home (grocery store) prices was the largest contributor with a 1.7-percent rise. Prices for food away from home increased 0.5 percent.

During the 12 months ended in March 2019, total food prices were up 2.1 percent, the fastest annual rise since January 2015. The increase reflected the combined effects of a 4.2-percent rise in prices for food away from home and no change in prices for food at home. Until this period, prices for food at home had fallen on an annual basis in every month since October 2017.

## **Energy**

The energy index climbed 11.0 percent in February and March, its largest bimonthly rate of increase since April and May 2018 (11.5 percent). The current energy increase was almost entirely the result of a 21.8-percent surge in motor fuel costs, but higher electricity prices, up 0.4 percent, also contributed. Partially offsetting these increases, prices for natural gas fell 3.0 percent.

During the year ended in March 2019, the energy index rose 3.9 percent, its first annual increase since November 2018. Higher electricity prices, up 14.5 percent, were by far the largest factor in the energy index rise. This was the largest 12-month increase in electricity prices since July 2008 (14.5 percent). During the latest 12-month period, motor fuel prices also rose, edging up 0.2 percent, but natural gas costs dropped 18.4 percent.

## **All items less food and energy**

The index for all items less food and energy rose 0.3 percent in February and March, the same increase as in December and January. A number of indexes registered increases in the latest period, but the leading factors were higher prices for new and used motor vehicles (2.8 percent), medical care (1.5 percent), and shelter (0.3 percent). Slowing the overall rate of increase, several categories registered price declines during the bimonthly period. Prices fell for apparel (-4.8 percent), household furnishings and operations (-2.8 percent), and education and communication (-1.2 percent).

From March 2018 to March 2019, the index for all items less food and energy rose 2.7 percent. Higher shelter costs, up 3.4 percent, were responsible for the largest share of the annual rise, but price increases for medical care (3.8 percent) and recreation (6.2 percent) were also large contributors.

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**The May 2019 Consumer Price Index for All Items for Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington is scheduled to be released Wednesday, June 12, 2019.**

## **Technical Note**

The Consumer Price Index for Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington is published bi-monthly. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 93 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers approximately 29 percent of the total population.

The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 75 urban areas across the country from about 5,000 housing units and approximately 22,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details, see the CPI home page on the Internet at [www.bls.gov/cpi](http://www.bls.gov/cpi) and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, *The Consumer Price Index*, available on the Internet at [www.bls.gov/opub/hom/pdf/homch17.pdf](http://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/pdf/homch17.pdf).

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The **Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, Texas, Core Based Statistical Area** includes Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Hood, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Parker, Rockwall, Somervell, Tarrant, and Wise Counties.

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**Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)**

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from -		
	Jan. 2019	Feb. 2019	Mar. 2019	Mar. 2018	Jan. 2019	Feb. 2019
All items .....	233.915	-	236.495	2.7	1.1	-
All items (1967 = 100) .....	733.777	-	741.872			
Food and beverages .....	253.699	-	255.969	1.9	0.9	-
Food .....	247.842	-	250.559	2.1	1.1	-
Food at home .....	207.414	210.511	210.985	0.0	1.7	0.2
Cereals and bakery products .....	255.386	-	266.188	1.2	4.2	-
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs .....	238.325	-	239.060	-0.8	0.3	-
Dairy and related products .....	188.554	-	190.796	-1.5	1.2	-
Fruits and vegetables .....	191.876	-	195.353	1.8	1.8	-
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1) .....	171.776	-	172.705	-2.2	0.5	-
Other food at home .....	195.766	-	200.436	0.5	2.4	-
Food away from home .....	308.627	-	310.134	4.2	0.5	-
Alcoholic beverages .....	330.069	-	318.749	-1.6	-3.4	-
Housing .....	229.081	-	228.979	3.9	0.0	-
Shelter .....	253.551	254.041	254.399	3.4	0.3	0.1
Rent of primary residence .....	270.392	270.881	272.007	3.7	0.6	0.4
Owners' equivalent rent of residences(2) ....	272.013	272.712	273.076	3.3	0.4	0.1
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence(2) .....	272.013	272.712	273.076	3.3	0.4	0.1
Fuels and utilities .....	243.801	-	243.863	8.6	0.0	-
Household energy .....	216.014	216.619	216.096	8.8	0.0	-0.2
Energy services .....	212.532	212.928	212.468	8.8	0.0	-0.2
Electricity .....	204.829	205.122	205.703	14.5	0.4	0.3
Utility (piped) gas service .....	191.719	192.615	185.960	-18.4	-3.0	-3.5
Household furnishings and operations .....	126.822	-	123.234	2.1	-2.8	-
Apparel .....	114.128	-	108.602	-4.6	-4.8	-
Transportation .....	197.285	-	209.623	1.4	6.3	-
Private transportation .....	200.653	-	213.095	1.6	6.2	-
New and used motor vehicles(3) .....	107.152	-	110.167	3.0	2.8	-
New vehicles(1) .....	204.666	-	210.684	5.8	2.9	-
Used cars and trucks(1) .....	325.710	-	330.419	0.7	1.4	-
Motor fuel .....	182.556	194.620	222.267	0.2	21.8	14.2
Gasoline (all types) .....	180.721	192.992	220.797	0.2	22.2	14.4
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4) .....	172.667	184.689	211.877	0.1	22.7	14.7
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5) .....	196.910	207.921	235.287	0.4	19.5	13.2
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4) .....	203.841	215.114	240.710	0.4	18.1	11.9
Motor vehicle insurance(1) .....	804.608	-	790.391	-2.6	-1.8	-
Medical care .....	443.905	-	450.507	3.8	1.5	-
Recreation(3) .....	123.316	-	124.547	6.2	1.0	-
Education and communication(3) .....	133.328	-	131.758	-2.1	-1.2	-
Tuition, other school fees, and childcare(1) ...	1,265.356	-	1,264.443	2.1	-0.1	-
Other goods and services .....	405.655	-	411.146	4.4	1.4	-
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
Commodities .....	171.839	-	175.825	1.3	2.3	-
Commodities less food and beverages .....	135.701	-	139.916	1.0	3.1	-
Nondurables less food and beverages .....	164.360	-	173.492	-0.3	5.6	-
Durables .....	110.870	-	111.243	2.7	0.3	-
Services .....	294.391	-	295.644	3.5	0.4	-
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>						
All items less shelter .....	225.385	-	228.790	2.3	1.5	-
All items less medical care .....	223.721	-	226.110	2.6	1.1	-
Commodities less food .....	140.554	-	144.699	1.0	2.9	-

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued**

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from -		
	Jan. 2019	Feb. 2019	Mar. 2019	Mar. 2018	Jan. 2019	Feb. 2019
Nondurables .....	204.611	-	211.118	0.8	3.2	-
Nondurables less food.....	171.709	-	180.566	-0.3	5.2	-
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	350.185	-	352.029	3.5	0.5	-
Services less medical care services.....	278.945	-	279.733	3.4	0.3	-
Energy .....	198.826	205.706	220.599	3.9	11.0	7.2
All items less energy .....	241.185	-	242.060	2.6	0.4	-
All items less food and energy .....	239.839	-	240.444	2.7	0.3	-

Footnotes

(1) Indexes on a February 1978=100 base.

(2) Indexes on a December 1982=100 base.

(3) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

(4) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(5) Index on a December 1993=100.

- Data not available.